

SCRIPTURES FOR THE BLIND

# BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

APRIL 1944

Vol. 89, No. 4



AN ISLAND NATIVE OFFERS THE WATER OF A COCOANUT IN EXCHANGE  
FOR THE LIVING WATER—PONAPE (see page 52)

TRANSLATION



# Christ in the Camp

by Chaplain Harry V. Smith

**B**EFORE the brass of a chaplain's uniform needs shining a second time, he usually becomes keenly aware of the meaning of Paul's text in 1 Cor. 16: 9, "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries." The fact is that putting on a uniform does not mean that men suddenly become religious. The soldiers of this Army are merely civilians in uniform. The uniform does not change their religious background, and certainly army life is not very conducive to spiritual development.

Someone has said that evil asserts itself to young men in four great temptations: drunkenness, gambling, impurity, and profanity. These temptations are perhaps presented more powerfully to men in the Army than they were to the same men in civilian life. There is something about war, and the training necessary to wage it, that is in conflict with the life of the Spirit. I would, therefore, be withholding the truth, if I did not observe that simply being in the Army does not make a man aware of his need of Christ.

Our government has recognized that soldiers need Christ. Witness the fact that we are spending millions of dollars in building chapels, providing chaplains, and giving Bibles and other equipment. The churches are aware of the need. Witness the surrender of pastors as chaplains, the giving of literature, and hundreds of other efforts to give the message to our men. From the fighting fronts come marvelous stories of faith and prayer. It seems that the closer men come to the realities of life and death, the more they turn to God. The pity is that there is not yet evidence of a widespread revival of religion. As in civilian life, so in the Army, men still have to be aroused to their need of Christ.

They can be awakened to their need. In all the training camps in this

country, no one can ever be far from the sight of a chapel spire pointing toward God. Whether or not they attend the services very often, the chapel is a symbol of help and comfort. There is an oft-repeated saying, "Tell all your troubles to the chaplain." All day long, and at night too, they come seeking help. To be sure, the problem may be a desire for a furlough or plain homesickness; but every conference is an opportunity for the chaplain to lead a man to Christ or point him to the higher levels of life. They come in to talk about the girl friend, and many go away thinking about the Great Friend.

Every soldier wants a Bible, and many are reading it. A few weeks ago a lad came into my office, ill at ease; for he said it was about the third time he had ever been in a church in his life. I gave him a New Testament. He held it gingerly, and then said, "Sir, I heard about the Bible once over the radio; but this is the first time in my life I ever saw one or held one in my hands." He said that the only thing he had ever heard about Jesus was his name used in profanity. He promised me that he would read the Book of Matthew. After a few days he came, and reported that he had read ten chapters. He eagerly asked me, "Why did people so treat such a good man?

How could he do, and why did he do, all those good things? Whatever became of him?" I did not spoil the story, but sent him away to read for himself. When he had finished it, he came back. I then read to him John 3: 16, and John 1: 12, "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God." Then I quietly asked him to receive the Saviour. We prayed together. After the prayer, he seized the lapels of my coat, and with tears said, "Oh, sir, I didn't know that one could feel the peace, the joy and the assurance that now I know."

## A Daily Prayer in Wartime

**F**ATHER, we thank Thee that, like leaves of healing, Thy Word is being scattered over the whole earth; that in a dark time the entrance of Thy Word is giving light; that divine counsel and comfort are being given to troubled hearts; that young men are cleansing their way by taking heed thereto according to Thy Word; and that statesmen are returning to the tested wisdom of the Book. As the vista of a new world opens before our eyes, we would see it shaped according to the pattern shown on the Mount. For the Bible is Thy recorded will, and we would follow its teachings, for life or for death. May this blessed Book fortify and purify the hearts of our fighting men, inciting them to heroism and chivalry, and to a new awareness of the holy cause for which they do battle. Inspire, we pray, all of us on the home front to seek to attain the Scriptural level of service and sacrifice. Make warm within the hearts of all preachers of the gospel a glowing loyalty to Thy Word, and to the Christ whom it reveals. And Thine shall be the glory in a transformed world. Amen.



# BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution of the Holy Scriptures*

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## John T. Manson

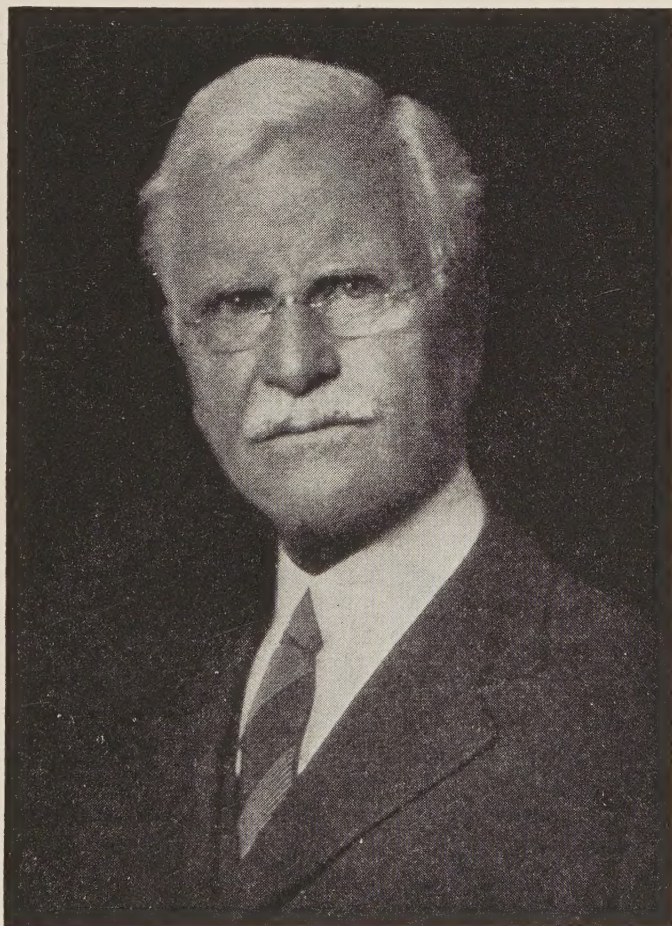
**W**ITH deep sorrow, the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society records the death of President John T. Manson on

February 21, 1944, at his home in New Haven. To his memory the Board and staff pay heartfelt tribute.

A member of the Board for twenty-eight years, he brought to the Society an invaluable leadership during the ten years of his presidency. To a large degree, the creative character of this period of the Society's life was due to him, to his suggestions and judgments, but more to his convictions. Constant was his concern that the Society go forward; always he was stirring up the staff to make sure that the Society was not in a rut, was not letting mere tradition direct its policy and method. He gave particular attention to the Society's financial condition, and some of its most successful experiments in program and method owed much to his faith. None ought ever to forget his casual but classic remark at the time of the Society's one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary at the New York City Hall: "The Society is a hundred and twenty-five

years old; but that's just the beginning of our work."

Integral with his conviction about the Society and making like contribution to its work was his character. No one ever met him without receiving an impression of fine-grained, gracious Christian character of unusual sincerity. His erect bearing and distinguished appearance were appropriate to the manner of man he was. Reticent concerning the faults of others, he was generous in praise. He bore severe affliction with great courage and steadfastness. He drew affectionate respect from those who worked with him. The staff will long remember his characteristic gesture of emphasis and the phrase with which he addressed them as "you young men"; and the Managers likewise his closing phrase in the putting of motions, "Are there any opposed?"



The serenity of his faith and the earnestness of his spirit sprang from deep devotion to the Scriptures, and supremely to their Lord in Whom he put his trust. Unto God we give thanks for John T. Manson, his friendship, and his inspiring influence.



# A Footnote to War Headlines

*The names of many Pacific islands now appearing on the front pages of the daily papers are well known to the workers at the Bible House and many missionaries. Here, the Society's librarian reviews the stories of some of them. A whole volume of romance and heroism might be written on the theme*

by Margaret T. Hills

THE Gilbert Islands, Truk, Ponape, Kusaie,—those dots in the Pacific that are now being bombed and fought over,—are the homes of people—men, women and children—many of whom have been Christians for three generations. Today they are learning about bombers in ways that we, in the United States, have been spared. To many of them the words of the ninety-first psalm are familiar in their own tongues—"Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; . . . nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday." "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust."

These Pacific islands have been invaded before by Americans, who came bringing friendship and love, and a willingness to learn the strange but beautiful languages of the islands, in order that they might announce their good news more effectively.

The first of these invaders came, in 1852, from Hawaii—three American missionaries and their wives, and three Hawaiians, two of them with their wives, sent by the Hawaiian Missionary Society and the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign

Missions. They carried a letter from king Kamehameha III, of the Hawaiian Islands, to the chiefs of the southern islands, telling what these "teachers of the Most High God, Jehovah" had done for the Hawaiians in the thirty or forty years just passed.

Mr. and Mrs. B. G. Snow settled on Kusaie, where Mr. Snow reduced the language to writing, and translated parts of the Gospels, which were printed in Honolulu. Later, other New Testament books were printed in Honolulu and in New York by the American Bible Society. Succeeding missionaries have carried on the work, until, in 1928, the entire Bible was translated by Miss Elizabeth Baldwin, and printed at the mission press on the island. Miss Baldwin lost her sight for it; because, rather than wait for a new pair of glasses to arrive from England, she went on with the proofreading with no glasses.

The other missionaries of that first party—the Sturgeses and the Gulicks—settled on Ponape, the largest of the Caroline Islands. They also learned the language, printed some parts of Matthew on their little press, sent more entire books to Honolulu and New York for publication. Other missionaries carried on the work, the New Testament being printed in 1887, and parts of the Old Testament later. The interesting story of the revision of this New Testament, and the translation of the Psalms by German missionaries, and their publication in England at the expense of the American Bible Society, with distribution effected through a Japanese mission, was told in the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD of January 1936.

Meanwhile the Gilbert islanders were hearing the Word. In 1857 Hiram Bingham, the son of the Hiram Bingham who was one of the leaders in the translation of the Hawaiian Bible, went with his wife and two Hawaiian couples to the Gilbert Islands. The familiar pattern of listening to the language, reducing it to writing, constructing a grammar, compiling a dictionary, teaching a group of natives to read and write their own language, was repeated, but with some interesting variations. When the Gospel of Matthew was ready for printing, the mission press at Honolulu was too busy

*A church built on the island of Ponape because the Scriptures were translated for the people*





printing Hawaiian Scriptures to bother with it. Instead, they sent the Bingham a small printing press, some type and paper. But Hiram and Minerva Bingham did not know how to set up type, nor work the press. Then, one day, three sailors,—the sole survivors of a wrecked whaler,—who had been seeking land for two weeks, appeared in the lagoon. One of them turned out to be a printer! He set up the press, printed the little Gospel, and stayed for many years as the mission's printer. In 1893, just over fifty years ago, the whole Gilbert Islands Bible was printed in New York. Since then, more than 26,000 Bibles and Testaments have been sent these islanders, and the Bible Society is now seeking ways to complete arrangements for sending new supplies into the islands; for many Gilbert Islands homes will have been destroyed in the fighting, and new Bibles will be needed as well as new roof-trees.

In 1857 George Pierson, M.D., and Edward T. Doane began work on Ebon in the Marshall Islands; and, of course, it was not long before they were printing the Scriptures. Other missionaries followed, the Snows coming over from Kusaie, later to be joined by Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Pease. The New Testament was published in 1885, and by 1914 a large part of the Old Testament was printed.

Later, missionaries moved on to Mortlock and Truk. The speech of these two islands is so closely related, that the New Testament, first published in Mortlock in 1883, and the Old Testament portion in Ruk (Truk) were translated by R. W. Logan and Francis M. Price, and are used interchangeably in both groups of islands.

The beginning of the twentieth century saw the island of Nauru come into the picture with the publication, in 1902, of the Gospels and several of the Epistles, and of the entire Bible in 1918, by the Reverend P. A. Delaporte.

Not many missionaries ever settled on the little island of Nuguor (Nukuor); but a native and his wife went from there to Kusaie many years ago, staying for three months. While her husband worked as a carpenter, Tiokwe went to church and learned all she could from the missionaries. When she went home, taking a Kusaie Testament with her, she inspired the natives of Nukuor to build a church and keep the Sabbath, and taught them the Lord's Prayer and hymns in Kusaie. Eventually, a missionary visited the island and brought away the king of the island and his wife to the Gilbert Islands training school on Kusaie. Several years later, Leka and his wife returned to their island as teachers, and worked for years on a translation of the New Testament. Meanwhile German missionaries had taken over the work in those islands, and St. Mark was printed in Germany in 1921. More recently, the American Bible Society has been in rather indirect contact with this project, and in 1940 had corres-



*Fishing vessel—Island of Truk*

pondence with the Japan Bible Society about the publication of the New Testament.

Still further west, on the edge of the group, lies Palau. Translation of the Scriptures has also been in process there, and the Society has been in correspondence concerning the publication of at least parts of the New Testament in the language of the people of this little dot in the Pacific.

Most of the inhabitants of these islands have heard the Word of God; and we can be sure that during these days of strife and terror forced upon them from a world with which their simple lives seemed to have no connection, our Book will have brought to some of them the same refuge and help that it has brought to so many others in all parts of the world.

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## The Sale of the Rio Bible House

QUITE unexpectedly Secretary Charles W. Turner brought from Rio de Janeiro in November a large offer from a real estate firm there for the Bible House built by the Society in 1932-33. Due to the foresight of Dr. Hugh C. Tucker, the handsome nine-story building was erected in an area where high-grade real estate development was likely. This development has taken place and is coupled with a general advance in real estate in the city. Although the Society had no thought of such an outcome when the building was erected, it seemed wise not to hold property of such increased value when the Society's purposes could be well served in a less valuable building and location. The contract of sale has therefore been signed, and in a few months the Society will seek another location and will have not only its original investment, made from the Sage Fund, but an additional amount of upward of \$200,000 to apply to the purposes of the Society. The whole matter has had the careful attention of the Treasurer and Finance Committee in New York, and of Secretary Turner and Dr. Tucker in Rio.



# News of the Bible in War-torn Europe

THE arrival of Mr. Hugo Cedergren, secretary of the Swedish Y.M.C.A., a neutral who had visited Switzerland in November, has brought us the most recent letters from the Geneva office. Supplemented by a few cabled messages, we are able to give an account of the vital importance of the prisoners of war work and civilian supply of the



*Shipping department—Geneva, Switzerland*

Scriptures in Europe. Quotations are from Mr. Béguin, the Secretary in Geneva, unless otherwise indicated.

"Concerning prisoners of war, the demand for Scriptures does not decrease. Large quantities of Bibles and Testaments are sent to American war prisoners. The evangelization work among the French is steadily progressing. Chaplains or 'responsible men for the Protestant church' have been appointed in many camps where they were lacking. The Geneva office also supplies the 'Société Centrale Évangélique' with Scriptures for the French civil workers in Germany. There, again, a large demand must be met.

"Hundreds of parcels have gone from the Ecumenical Commission each week from the beginning of September. During the summer there has been a notable decrease in the consignments, due to the fact that the French branch had to be removed across the road. The accommodations became really too small both for the staff and the books, and a flat was let for the French department."

"Upon the matter of supply for civilian populations, there has been no news from Rumania, Austria, Poland, or Czechoslovakia; but good news from Hungary, where production and distribution of the Scriptures continue active. Italy is in an urgent need of Bibles. An unexpected delay in the making of the paper prevented the edition in preparation in Geneva from being ready in time. Anyhow, it is impossible to send anything over for the time being. Financial help would also be urgent. But Geneva cannot possibly do anything." "France and

Belgium, especially the latter, have asked for great quantities of Bibles. Both will be short of New Testaments by the end of this year."

"A certain amount of Russian Gospels and Testaments were dispatched to civil workers. The demand seems rather heavy, but the office meets with certain difficulties with the customs. The office hopes that the sending of Polish Scriptures will prove easier. Anyhow, a good number of them will be forwarded to Polish prisoners of war and internees. About 1,000 German Bibles were sent to Alsace on behalf of the Geneva office by the Basle Bible Society."

"The Geneva office has just printed 6,000 Gospels of Matthew in Malagasy. They are sent to Malagasy prisoners of war in Occupied France. The Italian Bibles (6,800 copies) and Testaments (12,000) will now be ready soon. Moreover, the office is printing 6,000 Polish Bibles and 12,000 Polish Testaments. For Serbian prisoners of war 6,000 copies of each Gospel have been published, and these and 6,000 French Gospels are now going out to the camps."

"In addition to these, remittances have been sent to Geneva from the Society's War Emergency Fund for the printing of 35,000 French Testaments and smaller quantities of Serbian, Czech, and Armenian Testaments and Czech Bibles; and for supplying additional German Bibles to Alsace and French Bibles to Belgium and France."

The Society has been making shipments for prisoners of war through the War Work of the Y.M.C.A. A recent cablegram from Geneva contained the following message: "We have gratefully received all shipments. There is great need for English, Africans, and Hebrew Bibles. We have requests for nearly 3,000 English Scriptures. Some Bibles are also required in Malagasy, Zulu, and in West African languages."

The British and Foreign Bible Society has been requested to furnish the Africans, Hebrew, Malagasy, and West African Scriptures. The American Bible Society is in process of shipping 4,500 English, 200 Zulu, and 75 Hebrew Bibles, and 1,000 English and 200 Zulu New Testaments.

Up to the end of December 1943 the Society had expended for prisoners of war in Europe and America and elsewhere approximately \$100,000, and had issued some 33,000 Bibles, 130,000 Testaments, and 430,000 Gospels and other portions.

A hint of what this effort means in individual lives is seen in these quotations from prisoners of war:

"Gentlemen: I am now serving as Protestant chaplain to American soldiers at this camp: (1) I need a Holy Communion set; (2) we need New Testaments for the more than 300 men here; (3) here are eighty copies of 'Hymns and Prayers' for men in camp—we need one hundred more copies. Especially do we need 25 music editions—we have



no music editions now; (4) any other religious help for Protestants or Catholics will be appreciated. Your consideration and help in the foregoing will be genuinely appreciated."

"Dear sir: I would be very much obliged to you if you could send me a New Testament. I regret to inform you I have never had or read a Bible before. But, at last, I have realized my error, and yearn to possess one of my own. Hoping you can help me."

"Dear friends: I received your 14 parcels containing Bibles and books, and wish to express on behalf of the chaplains here our very sincere thanks and appreciation of them. The books will enable us to meet the keen demands of men in the stalag and out on working parties, and provide study for us and the men who are studying for ministry."

"Dear friends: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank God for the blessing bestowed by the receipt of these books, and the grace which inspired you to send them. Two of these I have now read, and both have answered and fulfilled a longing in my heart, strengthening me in the fight. I advance in the field and the Word strengthens those whom I serve."

"Dear sir: I am urgently in need of a Holy Bible, and, having noticed by a friend the publication by the American Bible Society and distribution by your good selves to prisoners of war, I kindly use this medium in asking you to send me one. I read part of the Bible daily; at present I must lend one from one of my friends. To have one of my own would be a great treasure. Thanking you in anticipation."

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## The Wycliffe Bible Translators

THE world today is being shaken to its foundations as a sign to those who live on the Word of God of "the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain" (Heb. 12: 27). One of the things that cannot be shaken is the great commission to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature; and it is heartening to know that the present commotion in the world is shaking open new doors into the mission field.

While our country has been gathering its manhood into great mobilization camps, a Gideon's band has also been mobilized each summer at Camp Wycliffe for training recruits to the mission work in the mastery of unwritten languages used in new foreign fields. This coming summer of 1944, Camp

Wycliffe, which is also known as the Summer Institute of Linguistics, will convene, as last year, at Bacone College, Muskogee, Oklahoma, for eleven weeks of intensive language training in phonetics, phonemics, and the morphology and syntax of unwritten tongues, with the promise of the largest attendance in its history. For several years a scholarship fund has been provided as a memorial to William C. Bentley, a young pioneer missionary to the Tzeltal Indians of Chiapas, Mexico, who was the first of the Camp Wycliffe group to give his life in this service for Christ. The American Bible Society has welcomed this activity and aided it somewhat.

Information regarding the forthcoming session of Camp Wycliffe may be obtained by addressing the Summer Institute of Linguistics, 1305 North Louise Street, Glendale 7, California.

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*The Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy receive the first of the Society's Testaments provided for the women in our armed forces, at a ceremony held at the Covenant First Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C., about a year ago. Left to right: Lt. Col. Ruth C. Streeter, director Marine Corps Women's Reserve; Mr. Stimson; Comdr. Albert J. McCartney, U.S. Naval Reserve, pastor of the host church; Mr. Knox; Capt. Mildred H. McAfee, director Women's Naval Reserve; Lt. Helen Schleman, executive officer, Women's Reserve, U.S. Coast Guard; Col. George F. Rixey, deputy Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Army; Capt. John Carruthers, chaplain, California State Guard; and Capt. Stanton W. Saulsbury, Chaplains' Corps, U.S. Navy*







*Refugees find comfort in the Bible*

**T**HE Visual Education Department of the American Bible Society is happy to announce the release of its new film entitled "The Bible in a Warring World." It is the story of the Bible as it speaks to the hearts of soul-hungry men and women in our distracted, war-torn world.

In a swiftly moving, compact sequence, which takes about twelve minutes to run in the sound version, a little longer in the silent, there is portrayed the wartime work of the American Bible Society, the officially designated agency of the Christian churches of America for the distribution of the Scriptures.

In the picture, the audience will see the Word at work in foxholes, in liferafts, on shipboard, in hospitals—wherever our fighting men are to be found.

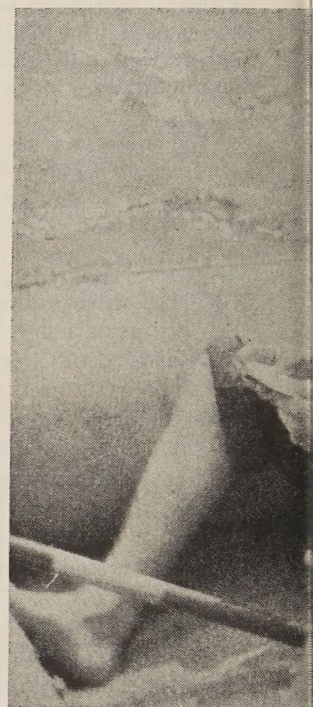
*Prisoners of war are free to read the gospel*



# The Bible in

by R

## Every Bible Lover in America



*Strength for the*

They will see the Bible ministering to prisoners of war behind barbed wire, and to refugees fleeing along the highways, driven from their homes by the destructive force and wanton brutality of modern war.

The production of the picture was done professionally and compares favorably in quality with the Society's previous sound film, "The Book for the World of Tomorrow."

The five pictures on this page are taken from the film. They show the Bible in use in a foxhole, in a prison camp, by men adrift on a rubber raft, by a crew on duty at a gun emplacement, and by aged refugees en route to some uncertain place of refuge.

APRIL 1944



# Warring World

. Betts



*in a rubber raft*

## Should See This Film

### *How to Get This Film*

- 1 You may borrow it for a week's use by either paying the small service fee of \$2.50 or by taking a freewill offering for the Society's War Emergency work. Gifts will be credited to this fund. Transportation charges both ways are expected to be paid by the exhibitor.
- 2 You may purchase outright a print of the film in either the silent or sound version, 16 mm. size, for \$25. This price includes the reel and can in which the film is contained. For those who have 8 mm. projectors prints are available at a cost of \$7.50.

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD



*Reading his Testament in a foxhole*

Anyone making a collection of films for home or private showings would want to include "The Bible in a Warring World."

For bookings or further information address:

VISUAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,  
American Bible Society,  
Park Avenue and 57th Street,  
New York 22, New York.

### *"Please read it again"*

A chaplain read the twenty-third psalm to a sailor dying in a hospital. The sailor's face lighted up. "Please read it again. While you were reading it, my mother seemed to be sitting in the other corner of the room."

*Bible study in a gun emplacement*





# Bible Notes from Cristobal

*As we review the year 1943, we recall many incidents that warm our hearts, about all kinds of people from different lands, with different interests, but with a common love for every man's book*

by R. R. Gregory

A REALLY tough-looking seaman came to the salesroom and asked for a Bible. "There is one book for which I have respect," he said. "I am far from being a Christian, but I believe in the Bible. The skipper does not have a Bible, and I would like to buy him one."

"We does not feel well without the Bible," said a Jamaican Negro who came to the Bible House to



*Caribbean market places are the colporteur's opportunity*

buy a Bible. They had lost all their household goods in the Colon fire of 1940, when the buildings in twenty-six blocks were destroyed.

One day a Marine came to buy a Bible for his wife in Wisconsin. It was to be a first wedding anniversary gift. We mailed the book for him. On the flyleaf he wrote, "Darling, may this book keep you until my return and ever after. All my love, Robert."

"I would like to send a fine leather Bible to my father in Arkansas," said a young soldier. We suggested that the Bible be mailed direct from headquarters in New York and thereby save delay, but he wanted to write a personal message in the Bible, and so it was mailed from here.

At the Gatun labor camp a Colombian bought a Bible, and requested that we mail it to his folks in Colombia, as they were Roman Catholics and never had a Bible. He is one of hundreds of laborers from neighboring Latin American republics brought to

the Canal Zone by the Panama Canal. We hold weekly services at the labor camps, and hardly a week passes that we do not sell a few Bibles and Testaments.

A former attorney of the Panama Railroad asked for a concordance to find a certain verse in the Bible. The day before, he was the defense attorney for the Italian Steamship Line on a sabotage case. In his address to the jury he quoted a Bible verse. Afterward, the presiding judge, who is a Bible student, asked him where he found that verse, as he had not quoted it correctly. The attorney found the passage, and the judge was right. The lawyer said, "I remember as a boy learning the verse from a psalm in the hymn book. I suppose they changed the wording so as to give it rhythm, but the meaning is still there." And what a splendid verse for anyone to learn! "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it; except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."

In the northern part of Guatemala is a large group of Indians. They live in small huts with grass roofs and dirt floors. Their main food is tortillas and black beans. They serve as peons on the plantations. When Mr. and Mrs. Cox started their work of translating a portion of the Bible into the dialect of these Indians, they had to work from the ground up. They had to build a vocabulary, choosing an alphabet including the different sounds, filing each word, thus building a dictionary, and discovering the grammatical rules underlying the structure of the dialect.

Mr. Cox writes, "The Lord gave us a fine Christian whom we trained as a translator, and who translated over half of the New Testament. After correcting the fourth chapter of St. John, Mateo, the translator, read it to himself. He smiled and, with tears of joy welling up, exclaimed, 'Now this we can understand! Oh, how good to have this in our own tongue!'"

The Bible is a wonderful book for the Marine, the soldier, the professional man, the Latin American, and the Indian. In fact, it speaks to the hearts of folks young and old, rich and poor, to the ignorant and to the educated. It is impartial to race or color.



# News from the Pacific War Zone

IT has been many months since the editors of the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD have been able to give their readers any direct word regarding some of the work and workers in the Far East. Interviews with repatriated missionaries, who arrived in New York aboard the S.S. Gripsholm on December 1, bring the following eagerly awaited news, all too scanty and yet encouraging.

## *The Philippine Islands*

At long last, news has come of the Fongers, the first since December 23, 1941, except for the official word of Mr. Fonger's internment. Happily, Rev. W. H. Fonger, the Society's Secretary in Manila, and Mrs. Fonger and their son Burton are reported well. Mr. Fonger is in the internment camp at Los Baños, where he went to serve as minister to the eight hundred men there; Mrs. Fonger and Burton are in the large Campo Santo Tomas in Manila. The latter is continuing his studies with the aid of teachers who are also interned. For a time, at the beginning, the family was allowed to live in the Bible House, but later all were interned.

After they were interned, a Japanese Christian pastor was put in charge of the Bible House, and sales were continued; but more recently the property has been closed and sealed.

## *China*

In Shanghai, the news of Secretary Hudspeth and his family, and of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hobbs, is encouraging so far as it goes. Mr. Hudspeth had some very difficult experiences, but is now well, and active in the religious life of the camp where he is interned. Mrs. Hudspeth and Mr. and Mrs. Hobbs are in another camp, and are reported as well as the camp privations will allow. It is earnestly to be hoped that all these courageous and faithful people will be repatriated soon, though assurance of that is not yet evident.

The office in Hongkong Road is reported to be open, and some sales going on under the direction of the Chinese Committee and the supervision of Bishop E. S. Yu, the chairman.

From North China it was reported that the Peiping Bible House is open, and sales were being made, according to the last news in March. A Chinese local Bible Society Committee is in charge. Mr. Willy Friedrich, a Norwegian missionary, continues in the residence.

## *Japan*

With the return of Dr. Paul S. Mayer, of the Evangelical Church, who has been handling the Society's business in Japan since Secretary Vinall left on furlough, no foreign personnel related to the Society remain in Japan. It is known that up to February, and probably later, the Japan Bible Society was carrying on very steadily, colportage being much reduced, but retail sales being made at the Bible House. An edition of the Old Testament was printed, and sold rapidly. The Society is in Class A of the paperationing plan of the government, but is nevertheless somewhat short of paper. The building is fully rented, with a waiting list. The overdue revision of the Old Testament is proceeding.

## *Thailand*

As already reported is an earlier issue of the RECORD, the Society's work in Thailand is entirely closed. Rev. Robert O. Franklin, the Secretary at the Bangkok Bible House, returned with Mrs. Franklin on the first trip of the Gripsholm.

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Here are great areas of the world where, in recent years, increasing thousands of people have discovered the Bible and have responded to its redemptive message.

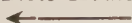
Secure foundations have been laid in all these lands, after which an enduring structure of devotion to God's Word will in the years to come be firmly built.



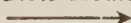
*The Tokyo Bible House*



*The Manila Bible House*



*The Peiping Bible House*





# A "Rime" of Modern Mariners

*To the close of 1943, the American Bible Society had distributed to the men in the Merchant Marine 2,196 Bibles and 40,549 Testaments. Another 40,912 Testaments in waterproof containers had been supplied as part of the equipment of lifeboats and liferafts on merchant ships*

by Del Grant

"ALL hands stand by . . .," broke in the announcement over the public address system. Then, as their names were called, five stalwart lads, dressed in dungarees, filed quickly out of the chapel. I imagined they were being called to assist in the preparation of "mess," as it was near the noon hour. After pausing in my address long enough for them to leave the auditorium, I continued speaking to the crowd of youthful would-be merchant seamen. These young men were soon to become "fighters in dungarees" in the battle of supplies. They had just finished their extensive training at Sheepshead Bay, New York, and were awaiting their assignment to a ship—men who would soon be filling the gap of terror between the factory front and the battle front. They sat with rapt attention as I spoke on a text I had read from the specially designed Merchant Marine Testament provided by the American Bible Society. As I stood before those youths from the forty-eight states, I began to realize more fully how they formed the vital connecting link between the industrial front and the far-flung fighting fronts—"men who are vitalizing the vast tonnage we are producing to defend our way of life," as President Roosevelt had described their important mission.

At the close of the service, I offered each boy one of the Testaments, and I was inspired by the eagerness with which they seized them from my hands. Several came to me and asked me to pray with them. Soon the Chelsea Hotel corridors were ringing with the voices of hundreds of youths, as they lined up for Sunday "chow." Hurrying feet scurried by the old fireplace where Mark Twain had sat and dreamed and had written his immortal tales of typical American youth. But Samuel Clemens of Hannibal did not then picture his Huckleberry Finn and his Tom Sawyer from Missouri in the role of embattled seamen sailing the seven seas. Today the war has carried the lad who only a few months ago knew spring on the banks of the Mississippi, or swung the green hickory fishing-pole over his shoulder and started out for a summer day off,—war has carried him to the far corners of the earth.

"I am sorry, Mr. Grant," said Chaplain Sather, the first chaplain to be appointed to serve with these

men, "that we had to break in on your message this morning; but we are on a twenty-four hour schedule around here, and the new recruits are leaving us almost hourly." As he drew up a chair for me in his office, he continued: "It will interest you to know where those men are now that were called out of your service this morning. Things are moving so rapidly in this war, that some of the boys spend only an hour here in the Graduate School of the Maritime Service as they await their turn to join the crew of a new ship. Those five lads who disturbed your sermon may now be manning one of the latest Liberty ships to hit the water from the runway or drydock." Only here an hour and then gone. . . perhaps never to return. How the words from this godly chaplain spoke to my heart!

"Theirs is the first front on every ocean," Chaplain Sather continued. "Without these merchant seamen, no front can be effective. And without them no army, no navy, can survive. Your boy in the armed forces is dependent upon them, completely and helplessly dependent. If these mariners fail (and they will not fail!), our armies must inevitably fail. And if we fail them, we jeopardize our armies. For, in modern war, supply is the keystone to victory."

In my mind's eye I could see those five noble young men as they went "down to the sea in ships" with that book—the greatest of all morale-building books—tucked into their pockets. They had been hearing the Word of life preached for perhaps the last time; but they could still read that Word in their leisure moments, and many of them would. Perhaps they would soon be operating the modern safety devices with which all the ships are equipped in the endeavor to save themselves or their buddies, tossed overboard; but, tucked close to their hearts, in the denim uniform, protected by the waterproof lifesaving suit, would be the sustaining Word of God. How great is the need for more and more volumes of the Scriptures for these men whose master is the tide, whose home is the merciless ocean, where time, in the hour of crisis, waits for no man to get right with his Maker! Last year there were nearly 100,000 men in the Merchant service. This year, we are informed,



there will be nearly 200,000. How many Testaments are needed is best indicated by these figures regarding the men nearest eternity and with the least protection of any branch of the forces who must give us the victory.

Alarmed and stirred by Axis submarine onslaughts, thoughtful Christians have insistently demanded that our fighting merchant mariners be given recognition and benefits equivalent to those which uniformed forces enjoy. Many in the Merchant Marine are suffering from the ailment called convoy fatigue, —not a disease, but just a normal reaction to “a state of continual apprehension and hyperwatchfulness” in life-threatening situations with no weapon with which to strike back at the enemy. Bibles given to these men before they go to sea, and more sent out to follow them, as well as the waterproof Testaments placed on the lifeboats and rafts along with emergency rations, will pay a thousandfold dividend in keeping up morale.

“Do they really read them?” is often asked, and is best answered in the words of a letter from Chaplain Sathers, written just after the chapel service described above:

• • •

## From the Chaplain and the Men

AT the beginning of the year the American Bible Society had distributed 72,135 Bibles, 3,312,375 Testaments, and 781,988 Gospel Portions to the armed forces. Of these, 1,145,846 New Testaments had been purchased at their cost price by churches and friends and personally presented to the men in arms. All the other books—a total of 3,020,652—were donated through the chaplains. This is, beyond all former wars, a Bible-reading war, partly due to the very devoted work of the chaplains, who are continually asking for more books to meet the requests of the men, and writing of the interest the men continually reveal in the reading of the Bible. We quote here passages from some of their letters.

### ***“I have been baptized”***

Driving into camp Sunday morning, I happened to pick up a soldier from one of our nearby posts. In the course of our conversation, these facts emerged: He was a Jewish boy, and mentioned that he carried a New Testament with him, and that he attended a Protestant Sunday school regularly for two years. He has been at his post here on the coast for about that length of time. I happened to ask him if he did not believe that Jesus was the promised Messiah; and he answered in this way: “I have been baptized.” He explained that, while stationed in or near

“I wish to express again our gratitude to you for your splendid message and service yesterday. The boys have made many most favorable comments on your message; so I feel sure that the seed sown has borne and will bear fruit. I found one boy reading his Testament, and when I talked with him, he informed me that he received it yesterday, and has spent every spare moment reading it and has reached the First Epistle of Peter. If this were the only visible fruit, I believe you should be happy; but it is only one of many cases.”

Think of it,—a boy who eagerly had read the New Testament almost entirely through in one sitting, in less than twenty-four hours. How many Christians, I thought, have ever read the Bible through, or the New Testament, in all the years of their Christian profession? God’s Word will not return unto him void, is the promise. If we will do our part, that oft-quoted Scripture—“the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea”—can move forward toward fulfilment in the hands of our nation’s merchant mariners as they man the fleets that ply the waters of the seven seas.

Boston, Massachusetts, he had gone to Tremont Temple Baptist Church for some New Testaments for some of the soldiers. It was through this channel, as I understood him, that he came to accept Christ. In fact, he mentioned that the pastor of the church there had written to him later, and asked him if he wouldn’t take this step. And he did.

### ***A Bible Class at sea***

An ensign, who, while in training in New York City, helped in the Society’s Sunday morning broadcast over Station WNEW, writes of having visited the Cristobal Bible House and the Society’s Secretary at Lima, Peru:

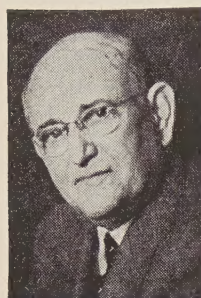
We don’t have a chaplain aboard, but we have organized a Bible Class, which meets every Sunday morning when we are out at sea. We received some of your Testaments through a chaplain, and have made very good use of them. I also have some of them in waterproofed coverings, and shall endeavor to place them in our boats and liferafts.

Although I haven’t been a faithful correspondent, I have not lost touch with the American Bible Society. I saw your representative—Mrs. Gregory. Mr. Gregory was out of town at the time,—and I also saw Mr. Ritchie. Enjoyed my visits in both places, and hope to see more of them from time to time.



# IMPORTANT

## Announcing the Sixth Annual Seal Campaign and Bible Sharers Club



Lloyd C. Douglas

**F**OR the sixth successive year the American Bible Society has launched its Bible seal campaign. Each year has seen a marked increase over the year before both in the number of seals used and in the funds thereby made available to the Society for the distribution of the Scriptures throughout the world.

Circulation of the seals has been effected for the most part by an extensive mail campaign; but this year, because of the urgent needs brought about by the war, the Society is seeking to enlist interested individuals and groups in a plan which should greatly extend the results secured.

Membership cards have been prepared for a new and what it is hoped will be a permanent organization known as the Bible Sharers Club, the purposes of which are as follows:

1. Help the American Bible Society, through the promotion of the use of Bible seals or in other ways, to secure the funds with which to distribute the Scriptures.
2. Help keep the Christian people of the community informed of the important five-fold task of the Society: translation, publication, distribution, service to the Blind, promotion of wider and more regular reading.

Every member who agrees to dispose of a sheet of the seals receives his membership card; for five sheets

or more he receives an attractively designed pin made of a plastic material, and for twenty-five sheets or more, a merit pin of sterling silver.

The Society invites any person or group interested in helping in this way to write to headquarters, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York 22, N. Y., for materials and membership cards. This is a splendid project for Sunday Schools or Bible Classes and other church organizations.

Because of the death of the Society's beloved Vice President, William Lyon Phelps, this year's mail appeal was written and signed by Lloyd C. Douglas, author of the best seller, *THE ROBE*, and of several other fine novels.

In his letter Mr. Douglas makes this interesting statement:

There are a good many hot borders, at present, which nobody tries to cross; but the Bible is not considered contraband at any of these disputed frontiers.

Never has there been such a demand for the Bible as at the present hour. The world is very ill indeed with a disease that has only one cure, and multiplied thousands of our young men in arms have begun to suspect that they know what that cure is; and they are asking their chaplains for Bibles—or Testaments.

The American Bible Society is an able instrument in the cause of peace. It deserves our cheerful support. It is no small thing to offer light "to them who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death."

The Society's need is not only heavier than ever: it is more urgent. This time, whoever gives promptly, gives twice.



## Editorial Comment



### BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution of the Holy Scriptures*

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to Francis Carr Stifler, Secretary, Bible House, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York

VOL. 89 APRIL 1944 No. 4

To EDITORS: *The Bible Society Record* invites reprinting of its articles in whole or in part. Its contents are not copyrighted.

### February Meeting of the Board

**T**HE tenth stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and twenty-eighth year was held at the Bible House, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York City, on Thursday, February 3, 1944, at 3:30 p.m., Vice President William Jay Schieffelin in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Miss Elisabeth B. Cutting.

The minutes of the ninth stated meeting of the year were presented and approved.

The minutes of the various standing committees were presented and approved, and their recommendations adopted.

The Board authorized a grant of 1,008 Bibles and 500 New Testaments to the Board of National Missions of

the Presbyterian Church; and also a grant of 4,500 Bibles, 4,000 New Testaments, and 2,500 Portions to the American Sunday School Union, on the sale and distribution plan.

The following resolution to be sent to the Chicago Bible Society on the occasion of its annual meeting, February 11, 1944, was adopted:

The Board of Managers of the American Bible Society sends warmest congratulations on the occasion of the one hundred and fourth annual meeting of the Chicago Bible Society, rejoicing in the increasing progress made during the past year in bringing the Word of God to countless numbers of persons hitherto without it, and looking forward to opportunities for greater cooperation between the two Societies in stimulating a wider interest in, and deeper appreciation of, the Bible both at home and in other lands.

The meeting was adjourned.



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### Divisions of the Haven Memorial Agency among the Colored People of the United States

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Rev. V. C. Hodges, D.D., 5424 Woodland Ave., Cleveland 4, Ohio.  
*Dallas*—Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas  
Rev. G. A. Hobart Sheppard, D.D., 2549 Elm St., Dallas 1, Texas.

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*New York City*—Bible House, Park Ave. and 57th St. .... New York, New Jersey, Penna., Del., Maryland, D. C., Virginia, W. Va.  
*Atlanta, Georgia*—85 Walton St. .... No. Carolina, So. Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tenn., Alabama, Mississippi.  
*Chicago, Illinois*—35 E. Wacker Drive. .... Ohio, Ky., Ind., Ill., Iowa, Mo., Mich., Wis., Minn., N. Dak., S. Dak., Neb., Kan.  
*Dallas, Texas*—1914 Main St. .... Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Colorado, New Mexico.  
*San Francisco, California*—224 McAllister St. .... Wash., Ore., Calif., Nevada, Mont., Idaho, Wyo., Utah, Ariz., Alaska, Hawaii.

## Foreign Agencies

*West Indies*—Rev. James Innes, Neptuno 629, Havana, Cuba.  
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*Upper Andes*—John Ritchie, Apartado 448, Girón Camaná 836, Lima, Peru.  
*La Plata*—Rev. P. Penzotti, Calle Paraná 471, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

*Brazil*—Rev. Charles W. Turner, Ph.D., Bible House, Avenida Erasmo Braga No. 12, Rio de Janeiro.  
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*Bible Lands Agency, South*—Mr. H. Athanasian, P. O. Box 724, 62 Sharia Ibrahim Pasha, Cairo, Egypt.

*Philippines*—Rev. W. H. Fonger, Box 755, Bible House, No. 636 Isaac Peral, Manila.  
*Thailand (Siam)*—Rev. Robert O. Franklin (on furlough) 703 Sathorn Rd., Bangkok.  
*China*—Rev. W. H. Hudspeth, M.A., Bible House, 58 Hongkong Road, Shanghai.  
*Japan Bible Society*—Mr. T. Tanaka, General Secretary, Bible House, 2 Shichome, Ginza, Tokyo, Japan.

### State Bible Societies Cooperating with the American Bible Society

*Maine*—Rev. Hammond I. Peterson, 12 Pine St., Portland 4.  
*New Hampshire*—Edward A. Dame, 24 Warren St., Concord.  
*Vermont*—Rev. Stanley B. Hyde, 189 South Winooski Ave., Burlington.  
*Massachusetts*—Rev. F. K. Singiser, D.D., 41 Bromfield St., Boston 8.

*Connecticut*—Rev. S. W. Raymond, 278 Farmington Ave., Hartford 5.  
*Rhode Island*—Rev. Selden R. McCurdy, D.D., 144 Westminster St., Providence 3.  
*Maryland*—Rev. E. C. Powers, D.D., 9 E. Franklin St., Baltimore 2.

\* Deceased.





## A "BEDTIME STORY" FOR FIGHTING MEN

It was midnight at an aerodrome. Some twenty air pilots waited for word to take off for the night's operations. There was the usual noisy joking. Then a pilot took a book from his pocket, and began to read aloud:

*And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened.*

*And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them . . .*

Gradually the room stilled. The pilot finished, closed the book. "There's my 'bedtime story.' If I should come down tonight, I should like to feel those thoughts were my last."

It happened in Malaya, but the same scene often occurs wherever men face battle. That is why the

chaplain has a Bible ready for every man who wants one.

You make it possible to give our young men and women in the armed forces this comfort, by your direct contribution. Why not also find out how you can give and receive at the same time through an American Bible Society Annuity Agreement? Under this plan, which has never failed in the *one hundred* years of its operation, you receive an *assured income as long as you live*. At the same time you share in the work of distributing the Bible wherever it is needed. Learn more about this plan! Send for the illustrated booklet *A Gift That Lives*.

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